per week. Traffic rights between London and Chicago are restricted to a maximum of three frequencies per week. Traffic rights to all the ten new points are unrestricted through all other points including those in Europe.

(iii) US airlines have been granted one additional point of call (Madras) for direct operations and another point for operations under Co-operative Services Arrangement.

(iv) North West Airlines of USA will not be allowed entry upto January, 1997. No other US airline will start direct operations to India until Ist November, 1998.

(v) Code share arrangement has been agreed between Air India and United Airlines for the latter's round the—world operation being introduced with effect from December 15, 1995. In addition, code share flights can also be operated with airlines of any third country.

(vi) Flights under Co-operative Services Arrangement with third country airlines can be initiated by Air India immediately. Upto four US airlines can commence such operations but only after April, 1997.

Difficulties faced by handloom weavers in Maharashtra

1533. MISS SAROJ KHPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of handloom weavers have precarious existence in Maharashtra due to the apathy of authorities towards them;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the weavers are consistently facing difficulties in procurement of yarn and in marketing their product on remunerative prices; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ameliorate the living conditions of handloom weavers in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMALNATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India is enforcing the Hank Yarn Obligation to supply hank yarn to the handloom weavers at reasonable prices. The Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme also aims at providing hank yarn at a subsidised rates to the weavers. Over 2.00 lakh kg. of yarn has been supplied in Maharashtra under this scheme during the current year. Government of India is also implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme for supply of yarn to weavers at Mill Gate Prices. A quantity of 0.30 lakh kg. hank yarn has been supplied in Maharashtra during the current year under this Scheme.

The Government of India has been implementing the Market Development Assistance Scheme for providing assistance to the Handloom Apex/Regional/Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, Handloom Development Corporations and National Level Bodies involved in production/ procurement and marketing of handloom products. Rebate to the National/State Primary level handloom agencies is also given on participating in the National Handloom Expos or Mini Expo. During 1994-95 a sum of Rs. 180.65 lakhs has been released to Maharashtra under Special Rebate/Market Development Assistance Scheme.

For the improvement of the living conditions of the handloom weavers the following schemes are implemented by the Government of India through the State Governments including Maharashtra:

1. Thrift Fund Scheme.
2. Health Package Scheme.
3. Group Insurance Scheme.
4. Modernisation of Handlooms.

Newsitem regarding closure of East West Airlines

1534. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "To phir East-West Ko Bund Kyon Nahi Karti Sarkar" appearing in the Jansatta of 24th November, 1995; and